

In 2002, Dr. Gough-Davis earned a MS in Natural Science from Delta State University (DSU) in Cleveland, MS. In 2005, Dr. Gough-Davis received a BSN and in 2009, she received a MS in Nursing from DSU. In 2012, she received a MBA with a focus in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix. In 2014, she received a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from DSU.

In June 2009, Dr. Gough-Davis began her career as a Family Nurse Practitioner at North Delta Medicine Clinic in Clarksdale, MS. In August 2012, Dr. Gough-Davis opened her own family practice clinic, Shaw Family Medical, LLC in Shaw, MS. In August 2016, she re-opened her mother and late father's clinic, Gough's Family Medical Clinic in Drew, MS. She has served as a clinical preceptor for at least 26 nurse practitioner students from various universities. Several of the nurse practitioner students have progressed to opening their own clinics in the MS Delta.

In August 2020, Dr. Gough-Davis began her career as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing at Delta State University. In August 2021, she was assigned an additional role as the Undergraduate Program Coordinator.

Dr. Gough-Davis's favorite quote is "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vane."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Nora Gough-Davis for her dedication, leadership and advocacy in healthcare. Her selfless service to her community, the Rural MS Delta Region, and the State of Mississippi are commended.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S  
LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, DR. JOHN  
SMITH, JR., IN HONOR OF BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month with immense gratitude for the life of service of veteran and retired educator, Dr. John L. Smith, Jr. Because of Dr. Smith's long-standing commitment and dedication to education and leadership, higher learning institutions throughout the United States are advancing diversity and inclusion at the highest levels. He charted a course through music, the arts and education that serves as an inspiration for future generations.

Dr. Smith was born in Bastrop, LA. on Sept. 14, 1938. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged after four years of service. Dr. Smith earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Lincoln University and then his master's degree in music education from Indiana University. Dr. Smith also went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with postgraduate study at Harvard University. Dr. Smith is married to Dr. Juel Shannon Smith and they share seven children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren together.

Dr. Smith's memoir titled *Mentors Matter: One Black Man's Journey to Success* highlights the role many of his mentors played in nurturing and inspiring his interest in classical

music and the sousaphone. His life's path was so outside the norm, it is inspiring to learn how each of his mentors, Black and white, kept him on track until he reached goals that few other Black men of his time had achieved.

Dr. Smith is a nationally recognized and accomplished musician. For more than 60 years, he has dedicated his time to playing the tuba. In 1962, he was named the first African American principal tubist for a professional American symphony orchestra. Dr. Smith was the first African American to receive a full-time appointment with the Oklahoma City Symphony. In 1966, Dr. Smith was appointed as Chairman of the Music Department at Langston University and modified the curriculum to be more African American centered. Also, during his tenure there, he produced a summer Black Arts Festival.

Dr. Smith's talent and commitment to students did not go unrecognized. In 1972, he was appointed as the first Tuba professor at the University of South Florida. His work to create an inclusive environment for Black students was tremendous and includes serving as founder and president of the Committee on Black Affairs, increasing Black faculty and administrators, and creating a Black student support group. Dr. Smith's leadership in these roles led to the establishment of the Institute on Black Life and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. campus plaza.

In 1988, Dr. Smith advanced to the position of Dean of USF's College of Fine Arts, becoming USF's first Black academic dean. From 1988 through 1998, Dr. Smith raised \$120 million for three endowed Chairs, including an African Art Chair; increased student and faculty diversity; held weekly lunch and counseling sessions for minority students; and endowed scholarships and programs for students. Also, while serving as Dean, Dr. Smith was the first African American to be elected president of the international Council of Fine Arts Deans and he served as chairman of the Florida Higher Education Arts Network.

In 1999, he became the 12th president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., a top-tier historically Black liberal arts institution. During his tenure as president, Fisk University advanced from 11th to eighth rank in the U.S. News and World Report and the Princeton Review, garnering the university greater national visibility. While in Nashville, Dr. Smith was appointed by the Mayor to the Task Force on Affordable Housing and Community Access Television Committee while also serving in the NAACP.

Dr. Smith is the recipient of many honorable civic, social, and educational honors such as the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Award and Outstanding Young Men of America. Dr. Smith's other accomplishments include expansion of international exchange and study abroad programs at USF as well as arts outreach programs to the University Area Community, Boys and Girls Clubs and West Tampa Elementary. Dr. Smith is also a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Dr. John L. Smith, Jr., for his lifetime commitment to servant leadership, creative spirit, diversity and inclusion in education, and uplifting our entire community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
MR. JOHN DUFFY FROM THE  
ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor Mr. John Duffy upon his retirement from the Elgin Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Duffy's distinguished service of over 48 years with the Board makes him the longest serving trustee in the history of Community College District 509.

In 1965, Mr. Duffy began his career as an English and Latin teacher at Larkin High School in Elgin, Illinois. It was only ten years into his role as an educator that his work extended into elected office and his position on the Elgin Community College Board of Trustees began. Throughout his time on the board, he was elected to chair the group seven times—a powerful testament to his colleagues' belief that Mr. Duffy embodies the values that the college seeks to instill in its students. Mr. Duffy has also used his voice to serve community colleges nationally, including by serving on the Boards of Directors for the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Mr. Duffy's outstanding leadership earned him honors including the Central Region Trustee Leadership Award and the Illinois Community College Trustee Association's Trustee of the Year Award. Across the academic community and beyond, Mr. Duffy is highly regarded for his dedicated advocacy for all students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Duffy's five decades of public service on behalf of students in Elgin and across the Nation, and I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESS-  
MAN EDWARD FORD WEBER

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following obituary honoring the former Congressman, Edward Ford Weber of Ohio.

**EDWARD WEBER OBITUARY**

Edward F. Weber, a Toledo area attorney for nearly 50 years and a one-term Republican congressman, who in 1980 swept a long-time incumbent out of office, died Monday in Hospice of Northwest of Ohio, Perrysburg Township. He was 91.

He had congestive heart failure, his son, Ford Weber, said.

Home most recently was southwest Toledo. Mr. Weber and his wife, Alice, formerly lived in the Westmoreland neighborhood of central Toledo.

He returned to practice law in 1983 after his term in Congress, rejoining Marshall & Melhorn as a senior partner. He headed its probate and trust section before his election and led the corporate-commercial section on his return.

In 1990, he formed the law firm of Weber & Sterling with Robert V. Sterling, specializing in wills, trusts, planning, and administration. He retired about 18 years ago.

Mr. Weber on Nov. 4, 1980, achieved what a dozen Republican candidates before him could not: He defeated Thomas Ludlow Ashley, ending the Democrat's 26-year congressional career. In the presidential race, Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter. Lucas County results showed Mr. Weber had over 10,000 more votes than his party's standard bearer.

"He was proud of the fact that he did not ride on Reagan's coattails," the younger Mr. Weber said.

Two years later, Marcy Kaptur defeated Mr. Weber by a margin nearly identical to that by which he was elected. Ms. Kaptur has been re-elected every two years since.

He took issue, in a Blade Readers' Forum letter, with a report that he had admitted he could have done more to hold the 9th District seat.

"For two years while I served in Congress. I worked as hard as humanly possible to retain my seat short of compromising my principles and voting differently on the issues," Mr. Weber wrote to The Blade. "That loss remains the greatest personal disappointment of my life. However, I do not believe that anything I could have done differently in the 1982 campaign would have changed the outcome of that election."

Mr. Weber's startling defeat of the seemingly invincible Mr. Ashley was the product of a precision campaign plan effectively executed. He began planning more than two years earlier, before Mr. Ashley's November, 1978 victory. He first got the notion to run while working in his yard. He was then a volunteer for Mr. Ashley's Republican opponent.

"I felt that the country very badly needed a big change in its direction—away from overregulation, away from overtaxation, away from unemployment, and away from the inflationary trends," Mr. Weber told The Blade after his 1980 victory.

The younger Mr. Weber said: "His parents instilled in him a sense of community and civic duty."

The years since, he "developed a lot of respect for Marcy Kaptur," the younger Mr. Weber said. The former congressman and his wife contributed to Ms. Kaptur's campaigns on several occasions.

"He served with honor," Ms. Kaptur said Wednesday. "Ed and Alice Weber had a beautiful marriage and were committed to family, to faith, to community, and country. It was a lifetime of achievement, not just for themselves, but for our community. He was a gentleman."

As Mr. Weber returned to the practice of law, he retained his interest in the public good. He was co-chairman of a successful capital improvement levy campaign for the Toledo Zoo. He served as co-chairman of a campaign to find private funding for a museum ship on the Maumee River, what is now the S.S. Col. James M. Schoonmaker.

He tutored children in reading at a central Toledo school. He wrote the occasional letter to The Blade Readers' Forum. By the early 2010s, he no longer considered himself a Republican, having voted for Barack Obama twice, but also said he was not a Democrat.

He and his wife joined community members in arguing for Maumee River views and green space as they publicly spoke out against ProMedica's six-story parking garage in Promenade Park. In 2015, Mr. Weber endorsed the mayoral candidacy of another vocal opponent to the garage, Mike Ferrler, a former member of Toledo City Council who was defeated in a close contest for mayor in 1993.

Edward Ford Weber was born July 26, 1931, to Elenore and Ford R. Weber and grew up on Scottwood Avenue in the Old West End. He was a 1949 graduate of Scott High School,

where he played football. He received a bachelor's degree from Denison University, where he majored in mathematics and music.

He was a 1956 graduate of Harvard law school and afterward served in the Army at Fort Belvoir, Va., assigned to the judge advocate as an attorney in the legal assistance office. He began his legal career at the firm then known as Marshall, Melhorn, Bloch & Belt.

When Craig Frederickson was hired by the firm in 1975, Mr. Weber became his mentor and managing partner.

"I was so lucky," Mr. Frederickson said. "I have to say he was probably one of the most remarkable individuals I've ever known—his integrity, his ethics, his brilliance, and his ability to handle and teach a young attorney with patience. It was so impressive. His dealing with clients—he was honest and truthful. He actually cared."

George Glasser, a retired judge of the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals, said: "He was an individual who had the courage of his convictions and stood for integrity and everything good."

From 1967–79, Mr. Weber taught trusts and estates at the University of Toledo law school.

He was a life member of what is now Ashland Church, from its historic home in central Toledo through its relocation more than 15 years ago to Oregon. He had been a trustee of the YMCA of Greater Toledo; the Toledo Museum of Art; the Red Cross in Toledo; the Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation; the Landman-Goldman Foundation, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

He was a former district Boy Scouts chairman and was a scoutmaster for 13 years of a central Toledo troop.

Music was a favorite avocation. When he entered Denison, he took the advice of his mother—who oversaw many entertainment programs at their church—and enrolled in a course in harmony, along with prelaw studies.

After law school, he sang in the church choir and composed prayer responses and organ music. Mr. Weber in 1977, directed a performance of a musical he composed, "One Solitary Life," based on the life of Jesus. He dedicated the work to his mother. He also composed the processional march for his daughter Mary's wedding.

He played clarinet in the Maumee Community Band and played piano and trombone.

He also enjoyed hiking and backpacking out west and sailing the Great Lakes.

Surviving are his wife, the former Alice Hammerstrom, whom he married March 30, 1957; daughters Elenore Weber and Mary Due; son, Ford Weber; six grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Family and friends will be greeted from noon–7 p.m. March 24 at Walker Funeral Home, Sylvania Township. Services will be private.

The family suggests tributes to the Toledo Museum of Art or the Toledo Public Schools Foundation.

Published by The Blade on Mar. 2, 2023.

# RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, CELESTE GIBBONS-PEOPLES, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples

for her nearly four decades of public service to the Tampa Bay community. Her influence in our community follows a tradition of excellence pioneered by her late father. Walter Lee "Dirk" Gibbons, who was a well-known Negro League Baseball player locally and nationally. She has committed her life to telling the stories of Black pioneers and celebrating the rich Black history of the Tampa area.

Born in the basement of a clinic in Ybor City and raised in East Tampa, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples attended Hillsborough High School and Hillsborough Community College where she started to foster her appreciation for Black history and its importance in life-long education. Her passion for this cause led her to become an active member of the City of Tampa's Black History Committee, Inc. for more than 30 years and served as its president 2014 through 2022. The Committee has awarded more than \$250,000 to high school seniors to further their education through college, university or vocational school.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples came to City of Tampa government in 1985 and is currently its certified senior procurement analyst. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed by her colleagues and peers—in 2017, she was named Buyer of the Year by the National Institute of Government Purchasing for Tampa Bay.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples continues to be a role model in our community. In 2010, she obtained her Certified Professional Public Buyer's (CPPB) certification and is also a Florida Certified Contract Manager (FCCM). Her love for her profession drives her position as president of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. Through this organization, she helps provide educational opportunities for current and striving Purchasing Procurement professionals.

Volunteer work also plays an integral part in Ms. Gibbons-Peoples's impact on the Tampa Bay community. Her contributions include United Way Suncoast, Great American Teach-In, Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc., Ladies Auxiliary for the Woods and Wanton Tampa Chapter for Buffalo Soldiers, and the Community Charter Schools of Excellence. As a coach for the Boys and Girls Club and Police Athletic League, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples has helped children realize their true potential. In addition, she serves as president of the Usher Ministry No. 2 at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker. I rise today in admiration and respect for Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples who is the embodiment of altruism and forms an integral part of Tampa's own Black history.

## HONORING ERICA BRADLEY

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and impactful leader, Ms. Erica Bradley. Ms. Bradley has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Ms. Erica Bradley has been named Jefferson County School District's 2022–2023 Teacher of the Year. She is a second-year